

Update on Columbia/Snake Mainstem Temperature TMDL

January 16, 2003

Background

- \$ September 13, 2002: A Preliminary Draft Columbia/Snake Mainstem Temperature TMDL was provided to public for informal review and comment.
- \$ October/November 2002: The Federal Columbia River Power System Action Agencies (Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Reclamation) provide comments and concerns on the Revised Preliminary Draft to EPA in writing and informal discussion.
- \$ November 7, 2002: The Columbia River CEQ Salmon Policy Group meeting was held in Portland. A Columbia/Snake Mainstem Temperature TMDL discussion presents issues and concerns from the Corps, BPA and the Bureau/Interior. EPA makes a commitment to hold the necessary substantive policy and technical discussions to resolve issues, and reach understanding and agreement before any forward progress is made on a public Draft TMDL.
- \$ November 13, 2002: EPA provides an Revised Preliminary Draft TMDL to states and tribes only. This revised draft contains a new Executive Summary to describe the Water Quality Improvement Process.
- \$ November/December
 - \$ Fabricant/Anderson-Corps Meeting
 - \$ EPA meets with Corps, Bureau, and BPA to resolve issues and reach understand and agreement. The Revised Draft Executive Summary is distributed for review and comment to Action Agencies.
 - \$ Idaho DEQ provides a letter supporting the TMDL process.

Current Status

- \$ **January 14, 2003: A Federal/State Columbia Temperature TMDL Meeting** is held with participation from Corps, Bureau, BPA, EPA and water quality managers from Oregon, Idaho and Washington. The meeting focuses on moving forward on the TMDL and specific agreements on how entities will work together to develop a Draft Temperature TMDL and Implementation Plan in a collaborative process. Everyone agrees to a series of steps to move forward on the TMDL work effort.

Where We Are Going:

- \$ **Agreement to move forward on a Water Quality Plan.** The Corps, EPA and states will work with the Tribes and other entities on a Water Quality Plan. This Water Quality Plan will form the framework for a TMDL Implementation Plan. **Lead: EPA and the Corps**
- \$ **Agreement on a Collaborative Implementation Plan Process** - Idaho, Oregon and

Washington will work together and in collaboration with the Action Agencies on an Implementation Plan that will describe the Water Quality Improvement Process. This collaboratively developed implementation plan will be developed for the Draft TMDL. This will include language on how the dam removal issue will be articulated as a Anot feasible@ CWA measure. **Lead: Washington Ecology**

\$ **Agreement to Continue Technical Discussions** - EPA will set up meetings with the Action Agencies to continue to resolve technical issues. In the meantime, EPA is the doing additional technical work requested by the Action Agencies, PUDs and pulp and paper dischargers. **Lead: EPA**

\$ **Agreement of Action Agencies, EPA and State Water Quality Managers to meet in mid-February**, report on progress, resolve issues and agree on a schedule for moving forward on the TMDL.

\$ **Action Agencies will provide comments to EPA on the Revised Draft Executive Summary.**

\$ **EPA will keep states informed of federal policy discussions.**